

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a fecal sample from a person for diagnosis, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with symptoms common to inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome, other than a breast-fed infant;

determining whether measuring the sample contains for an elevated level of lactoferrin; and

selecting the sample having elevated lactoferrin for further analysis;

measuring ~~determining whether the~~ selected sample for ~~contains~~ an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA);

measuring the selected sample for ~~and~~ an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA); ~~if the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin;~~

~~wherein a diagnos[is]ing [of] Crohn's disease~~ for the person having a sample with ~~may be substantially concluded if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies;[,] and~~

~~wherein a diagnos[is]ing [of] ulcerative colitis~~ for the person having a sample with ~~may be substantially concluded if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies.~~

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease may be concluded if said sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1[2], wherein a diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome may be concluded if said sample does not contain an elevated level of lactoferrin.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the elevated level anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies differentiates ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies differentiates Crohn's disease from ulcerative colitis.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin, anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are measured using one of enzyme-linked immunoassays, lateral flow membrane tests and immunoassays utilizing antibodies for capturing fragments.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin is measured determined by a qualitative ELISA.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin is measured quantitatively.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: diluting the sample.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with immobilized polyclonal antibodies to endogenous lactoferrin to create a treated sample;

contacting said treated sample with enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies such that the enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies are allowed to bind to captured lactoferrin creating an enzyme-linked antibody bound sample;

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining the optical density of said readable sample at 450 nm.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10[14], further comprising: generating a standard curve from purified lactoferrin.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising: comparing said optical density of said readable sample to said standard curve to determine the concentration of endogenous lactoferrin in said the sample.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with antigens of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin conjugated to an enzyme such that the polyvalent antibodies are allowed to bind to capture anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies creating an enzyme-linked antibody bound sample

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining the optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin such that the enzyme-linked polyvalent antibodies are allowed to bind to capture anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies creating an enzyme-linked antibody bound sample;

adding an enzyme substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for distinguishing inflammatory bowel disease from irritable bowel syndrome and for differentiating ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with symptoms common to inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome, ~~other than a breast-fed infant;~~

~~determining whether measuring the sample forecontains~~ an elevated or non-elevated level of lactoferrin;

diagnosing the person having a non-elevated level of lactoferrin with irritable bowel syndrome ~~if the fecal sample does not contain an elevated level of lactoferrin;~~

selecting the sample having an elevated level of lactoferrin for further measurements ~~diagnosing the person with inflammatory bowel disease if the fecal sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin;~~

~~determining whether the person has~~ measuring the sample having an elevated level of lactoferrin for an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA);
and

measuring the sample having an elevated level of lactoferrin for an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA); and

~~if the fecal sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin and the person has been diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease to differentiate Crohn's disease from ulcerative colitis; and~~

~~differentiating between a diagnosis of diagnosing the person with Crohn's disease for the person having if the a sample with~~contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies; and ~~a diagnosis diagnosing the person with of ulcerative colitis for the person having if the a sample with~~contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

monitoring the person for changing levels of fecal lactoferrin as an indicator for the effectiveness of medical therapy, wherein if the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin intestinal inflammation is indicated.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)